

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Duncan Hunter, Chairman

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House Approves Resolution Commending All Involved in Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom

Washington, D.C. – The House of Representatives today approved a resolution (H. Con. Res. 177) commending the members of the U.S. armed forces and their leaders, our allies and their armed forces, and all those involved in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Ranking Member Ike Skelton (D-MO) sponsored the resolution.

Rep. Hunter read the names of each of the U.S. military units serving in the operations and delivered the following statement during debate on the House floor:

“As we stand here today, U.S. forces are deployed around the world engaged in the global war on terrorism. The first two campaigns in that war – Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom – proved our resolve in taking the fight to anyone, anywhere who wishes to do us harm. The results show that the United States military remains the most powerful and effective military in the history of mankind. The after-action reports will show many reasons for our success. However, I believe that the most important factor is the simplest one – our people. The United States is blessed to have the most highly trained, equipped and motivated force in the world. It is through the dedication, creativity and ability of our young men and women in uniform that we were able to prevail. I, and all my colleagues, commend them for their service.

“Through both these operations, our forces stood shoulder to shoulder with 21 allied nations in Afghanistan and 49 coalition members in Iraq, who aided the United States as we moved to defeat the scourge of terrorism across the globe. Without the help of these valiant allies who contributed so much, we could not have enjoyed the success that we have had to this point.

“Neither could we have succeeded without the support of the civilian employees of the Department of Defense, industry employees and leadership, community organizations and employers who made their Guardsmen and Reservists available for these endeavors. Their support to the men and women in the field made these operations possible.

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“This resolution commends the bravery, dedication and resolve of all those who contributed to the success of these two operations. In particular, however, I want to express the condolences and thanks of a grateful nation and a grateful Congress to the families of those service personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice during these operations. Nothing we do here today can adequately express our sorrow at the loss of these brave men and women. The sole consolation I can offer is that it is my firm conviction that they did not die in vain. Our country, and the entire world, is safer and freer today because of their sacrifice. We honor their service and mourn their loss.”

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